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OUR TAXES.

"Free Silver" Makes Some Sensible Suggestions on the Question.

Erasmus, Tenn., Feb. 5th, 1916.
Editor Chronicle,
Crossville, Tenn.

Dear Friend:—I have read "How Can We Raise the Needed Taxes" and wish to express my sentiments on the question. First, we need a basis of equality in the assessment of real estate. I notice that some pieces are assessed too high and some about fair while the majority of tracts are entirely too low.

The small tracts owned by the poor class are the ones that are assessed about right and too high as a rule and are the poorest land and situated in the most disadvantageous localities, while the larger tracts owned by the wealthier class, by corporations and non-residents are the ones that are valued too low. Now if these latter were valued on the same basis as the former it would nearly double our income in taxes. I know of lands owned by corporations for which they paid \$8 to \$20 per acre, that is assessed at \$3.00 and even less, while a poor man who was able to buy only a few acres and was unable to pay a part of it, at the same price per acre is assessed for the full amount he agreed to pay. This is unjust. He has his interest to pay and a much heavier tax, while what improvement he makes in the country is boosting the value of the non-residents' and companies' lands. If these companies and non-residents do not wish to help raise this much needed tax fund they will throw the land on the market at a reasonable price to actual settlers.

Second: This \$1,000 exemption of personality ought to be abolished. While that is a favor to the poor it is badly abused by the wealthy. The wealthy man distributes his wealth among his friends in such a manner as to dodge the tax. Now if all personality were assessable at actual cash value and a 15 per cent or 25 per cent released on each person I believe there would be a much greater revenue derived thereby than is under the present system.

Third: All travel on our county roads by our resident citizens be assessed on a basis agreed upon, i. e., something like this: each one-horse vehicle, 50c; two-horse farm wagon, \$1.50 and a four-horse vehicle and team \$3.00; automobiles as to horse-power, \$10.00 to \$25.00. Such an assessment, without regard to age of the owner, and I think a large per cent of this extra tax would be easily raised. We need more good roads, more actual settlers who own their homes and thereby putting more interest in the management of public affairs. A higher standard of honesty, in fact each of us ought to strive for the betterment of our nation and the human family at large.

Free Silver.

Meridian

Miss Naomi Bristow was the weekend guest of Misses Laura and Mae Brown.

Miss Grace Ray spent the week-end with home folks.

James Hennessee, of Dorton, was the guest of Miss Daisy Hedgecoth Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Naomi Bristow, who has been attending school at Crab Orchard, returned to her home in Grassy Cove Saturday. She was accompanied by Miss Mae Brown.

Clifford Hedgecoth, Oscar Smith and Wilson Deatherage were week-end visitors here.

Miss Mary Martin, who has been visiting in Crossville the past month, returned home Friday.

Dug Martin and Chas. Brown attended court at Crossville last week.

Chester and Willie Hedgecoth, who are attending school at Crossville, spent the week-end with home folks.

Rev. Garrison preached a very interesting sermon here Sunday.

Will Ray made a business trip to Crossville Tuesday.

J. C. Kemmer, Sr., passed through here last week.

Feb. 14. Forget-me-not.

Winesap

P. M. Brewer made a business trip to Erasmus Saturday.

Miss Florence Simmons and Mr. Parker Mooneyham were married the sixth.

Allan Burgess attended church at Winesap Sunday.

Miss Lony Stone and John Blaylock were married Sunday.

Misses Lela Patton and Pearl Evans will leave for Texas next week.

Elmer and Steve Brewer are visiting relatives at Brotherton this week.

Feb. 14. Two Lonesome Kids.

"OFF AGAIN, ON AGAIN."

Ouster Against Howse Will Stand, But Not so With Crump.

Saturday the state supreme court handed down a decision sustaining the ouster law and making it clear that former Mayor H. E. Howse was legally removed from the office of mayor of Nashville and must remain out, unless he is again elected by the people.

Howse at once announced himself as a candidate for the office from which he was removed and stated that he would be a candidate at the next election called to elect a mayor of Nashville.

The finding of the supreme court resulted in the reinstatement of former Mayor E. H. Crump, who had been removed from the office of mayor of Memphis by ouster proceedings. It was at once announced that in the event Crump assumed the office of mayor, to which he was elected by the people last April, ouster proceedings would be begun against him. Since the court ruled that acts committed before the election of a person to office could be brought against him for his removal, it would seem that Crump will not dare to qualify nor again become a candidate for the office.

That would also seem to indicate that Howse will be in grave danger of being ousted again should the people elect him mayor of Nashville at the next election.

Genesis

Miss Verna Turner has had an attack of pneumonia fever. Dr. Lewis was called and she is up and going around.

Mrs. A. J. ... is very sick last week with ... but is now able to be out again.

Mrs. F. M. Elmore, who was very sick, is now well again.

Noah Turner has been working with the bridge gang this winter, but he came home a short time ago on account of sickness in his family. He expects to return to his work as soon as his family recovers. They were all better at the last account.

W. R. McCoy, who got his leg broken some time ago, is getting along fine, but cannot bear any weight on it yet.

Willie McCoy was home from Crossville last week visiting home folks. He is attending school at Crossville this winter. He was accompanied home by Willie Elmore.

Perry Dixon went to Crossville Tuesday.

Eldridge Myatt made a business trip to Isoline Monday, returning home Wednesday.

Julius Elmore and little son Albert and Billie Elmore made a business trip to Crossville yesterday.

Joe Henry made a business trip to Frankfort Monday.

L. A. McCoy came home Saturday from Catoosa, where he has a job of hauling. He expects to come home in a short time to stay and work on his farm.

A very young gentleman made his appearance in the home of Esq. C. H. McCoy, Jan. 22nd, and asked to make a permanent stay. Houston is wearing a broad smile nowadays.

Mr. Benton expects to leave in a short time for New York to join his wife and they will spend the summer with Mrs. Benton's father and mother.

L. A. and C. H. McCoy will look after Mr. Benton's farm until he returns in the fall.

Davis Ashburn and son Sheridan, of Fentress county, are visiting Eldridge Myatt.

On account of poor health and the rough weather, Rev. Sumner failed to reach his appointment here and at Cold Springs the fourth Sunday in January.

Feb. 11. May Bee.

LICENSE REVOKED.

Rev. Alfred Burroughs, known as the "marrying parson" had his license to marry revoked in Bristol, Va., last week, but as no action has been taken up against him in Tennessee he will continue to tie nuptial knots.

It was shown that he had hotel porters engaged to direct couples to him and that he was making of it a business with much profit. He will not be allowed to marry any more couples in Virginia but can continue the business in Tennessee.

If you have not paid your subscription to the Chronicle why not do it NOW and at the same time take advantage of the big combination offer we are making. You can supply yourself and family with good reading for a whole year and save 95 cents over any other way of getting the same good reading.

RUSH MURDER TRIAL NOW BEING HEARD

Large Number of Witnesses and Cases May Not Go to the Jury Before Friday.—Rumor Has it That Jury Will Disagree.

Not since Hiram Hall murdered his wife in 1899, has any crime so moved and excited the people of this county as the murder of Will Rush and his wife, Mabel Rush, in Grassy Cove, September 21, last.

It will be remembered that Hall struck his wife in the head with a large rock and then put the body, head first, into the family spring to create the impression that she had fallen into the spring and drowned. Hall confessed to the crime and was hanged in the jail yard by J. S. Garrison, who was sheriff at that time.

The Rush case is a very much worse crime than that of Hall in that two lives were sacrificed and the crime was entirely void of cause or reason that should appeal to the mind of any reasonable person. In the case of Hall, he and wife had not been getting along together and in his confession Hall stated that his mother urged him and almost forced him to commit the crime. No action was taken against Mrs. Hall as she was a woman advanced in years. She is still living in this county.

When the news of the crime became known the greatest surprise was manifested for in no part of the county would such a crime have been likely to occur than in Grassy Cove. The people there are particularly orderly and well behaved as is evidenced by the fact that very few petty criminal cases such as carrying a pistol, bootlegging, etc., come into the circuit court from that part of the county.

NO COURT EVIDENCE.

Judge C. E. Snodgrass personally requested of the Chronicle editor that we refrain from attempting to give the evidence as adduced at the trial, which has been in progress since Friday afternoon. Judge Snodgrass gave as his reason for the request that in the event of a hung jury and another trial becoming necessary, an article in the Chronicle purporting to give the gist of the evidence as adduced at the trial might disqualify so many persons in the county as jurors that it would be impossible to secure a jury to try the case and by that means the ends of justice be thwarted.

The editor of the Chronicle having no desire to in any way hamper the course of justice, we very naturally refrain from attempting to give the court evidence. The case being one of such marked interest and having been so much talked by the people generally, we found it no great task to secure from the people, some of whom were at the scene of the murder but were not summoned as witnesses, such general details as enables us to give a reasonably clear explanation of how the crime was probably committed. As to who the guilty party is, we have nothing to say as the court is now endeavoring to determine that fact.

There are a large number of persons over the county who feel that Victor or Jack Rush, the man accused of the crime, is guilty.

BACK FROM THE WEST.

Will Rush met and married his wife, Mabel Rush, at some point in the west a few years ago and later moved to Grassy Cove, where he and his accused brother, Victor, were raised. Victor Rush was with Will Rush and wife in the west and it is claimed became infatuated with Mrs. Rush, but she did not in any way return the feeling. She is reported to have said that had she and husband known that Victor would follow them from the west to Grassy Cove they would not have moved there, for she knew something against Victor Rush of a damaging character, but did not state what it was. Victor Rush arrived in Grassy Cove about the time Will Rush and wife did. Will Rush was 26 and his wife 20.

TOOK MEALS WITH BROTHER.

For some time after they all returned from the west Victor Rush lived in the house with his brother, Will Rush, and wife. Later Victor moved to what is known as the old Rush house, which stands about 65 steps from the home of Will Rush. Victor and Will Rush had been deeded the Rush homestead farm under the conditions that they should support and care for their father, John Rush, as long as he lived. Will and Victor Rush also owned some stock and farm tools in common and worked the farm together.

Mabel Rush, the murdered woman, was a beautiful woman, very neat in person and a tidy housekeeper as well as being possessed of a good education. She was admired and held in high esteem by her neighbors in the Cove, which made the frightful manner of her death more affecting to the entire community.

KILLED AND HOUSE BURNED.

The crime was committed about one o'clock in the morning, Tuesday, September 21. It seems to have been committed in about the following manner: The murderer gained access to the home of Will Rush and shot him while in bed. He was shot in the mouth and throat with No. 4 shot from a 12 gauge gun. Everything indicated that he was killed instantly as the partly consumed body was found on the bed springs after the house was burned to the ground. The shot ranged upward into the head and fractured the skull. The shot must have been fired from close range as two wads from the shell were taken from the wound by Dr. V. L. Lewis, assisted by John Dunbar.

HOW WOMAN WAS KILLED.

The woman was shot in the left breast, near the collar bone, but did not prove fatal for she ran from the house and was pursued by the murderer for about five steps when he came close enough to strike her on the head with the gun, which felled her to the ground and fractured her skull. While lying on the ground she bled profusely and two large pools of blood were found where she fell. The body was then dragged in a circular direction a few steps farther, around a tree and into the house. When the murderer struck the woman with the gun a piece of the stock split off and was found near by. After the body was placed in the house the murderer went to the kitchen and got a three-gallon oil can and poured the contents on the floor or bodies and set fire to it. In a few moments the house was in flames. The house was frame and consisted of two rooms and a small kitchen ell. The murderer left the gun in the house near the body of the murdered woman and it was found there with the stock burned off. Rumor has it that Victor Rush admits that the gun belonged to him but denies any knowledge of how it came there.

Victor Rush went to the home of Bratcher Wilson, about one fourth of a mile away, and aroused him—about one o'clock in the morning—and said that his brother Will's house was on fire and he feared his brother and wife were burned in it. On arriving at the burning house the body of Will Rush could be seen in the burning building.

DID NOT WANT BODIES REMOVED.

Some one suggested that the bodies be taken from the fire, but Victor Rush objected on the ground that they were both dead and that the bodies had burned about all they would. When the bodies were removed the hands and legs of Will Rush were burned off; the hands and arms almost to the elbows and the legs more or less badly consumed or burned up to the trunk. The head of both victims was also so badly burned that it was with difficulty that they could be recognized by friends.

Persons living nearer the Rush home than Bratcher Wilson are said to have heard two shots in close succession and also heard some person cry out as if in great distress. Shortly after they were attracted by the burning house.

BLOODHOUNDS USED.

Bloodhounds were brought from Chattanooga and followed a trail to the kitchen of the old Rush homestead, where Victor Rush lived, through the house and to the home of Bratcher Wil-

son, where Victor Rush went to awaken Mr. Wilson and tell him of the fire. The trail was struck by the dogs at the tree where the woman was killed by being hit on the head with the gun. The hounds also trailed back from the Wilson home to the burning building.

Victor Rush urged that bloodhounds be gotten and paid Perry Phipps for the use of them before Phipps left the scene of the tragedy.

INDIFFERENCE OF ACCUSED.

After Victor Rush was arrested and while on the way to Crossville he manifested no sorrow over the death of his brother and wife, but joked talked and sang short snatches of songs. He denies any knowledge of the crime.

The case is still in progress and may not be completed before Friday of this week as the attorneys will very likely argue the case to considerable length.

HOW HE LOOKS.

Ever since the accused man has been in jail here he has manifested unusual indifference over the case further than to say he would be out and free as soon as it could be tried. As he sits in court there is an air of bravado and bold indifference in his actions that does not tend to strengthen the idea of his being innocent. He is a young man of about 22 years, dark complected, black, heavy hair, round visaged, about five feet seven or eight inches and will weigh around 150 pounds. Under his calm demeanor there seems to be something that tends to lead one to feel that he is strung up to rather a high pitch and that he is not finding it an easy task to act calmly. He does not look like a man who would commit such a crime, but when one looks squarely into his eyes there is an unpleasant something comes over you that leads you to feel that there is a cold and unsympathetic soul behind them that you would not wish to have hold your destiny.

SHERIFF A WITNESS.

On account of Sheriff Toney being summoned as a witness and placed under the rule, the summoning of the jury fell to the Coroner Roe Hyder. It has been freely predicted on the street that the jury will disagree and another trial will be necessary. Following are the

JURORS IN THE CASE:

J. D. Brown, J. L. Davis, J. A. Tulley, J. R. Wyatt, John Campbell, L. A. Brown, J. F. Hughes, H. A. Kring, D. D. Rymer, R. D. Hall, J. E. Wright, Henry Woody. All are farmers.

HIGHEST OFFICER DEAD.

Mrs. Rata A. Mills, Most Worthy Grand Matron O. E. S., Died Wednesday.

Mrs. Rata A. Mills, Most Worthy Grand Matron of the Order Eastern Star, died at her home, Bradford, Pa., Wednesday of last week after a very brief illness. She had recently returned from a visit to the chapters of the order in the Hawaiian Islands and it is thought she contracted a fever, which, with other complications, hastened her death.

Previous to her election to the highest office within the gift of the organization, which she held at time of death, she had been Grand Matron and Grand Secretary of the order in her home state of Pennsylvania. She was elected Most Worthy Grand Matron at the last triennial meeting, which convened in Chicago in the fall of 1913, and would have retired at the triennial meeting which will convene in Louisville, Ky., this fall.

Mrs. Mills attended the annual meeting of the Grand Chapter, O. E. S. of this state in January two years ago and won the love and high esteem of all who met her. She was a woman of fine mind, high ideals and a most charming personality. Her death will bring pangs of regret and sorrow to many of the order in this state as well as all over the United States, Canada and our island possessions.

GARRISON RESIGNS.

Last week Secretary of War L. M. Garrison tendered his resignation to President Wilson and it was accepted by the president at once. Assistant Secretary Breckenridge also resigned as a mark of loyalty to his chief.

The break came because the president would not "irrevocably" endorse the continental army plan favored by Secretary Garrison and, also, the failure to fix a definite time for the independence of the Philippine Islands.